

# RIVERS EAST WORKFORCE NEWS

July-September 2020

*Serving Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin & Pitt County*



## *This quarter's numbers*

### TOTAL NUMBER IN TRAINING

Adult	95
Dislocated Worker	33
Youth	49
Total	177

### INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY COUNTY

Beaufort	589
Bertie	85
Hertford	194
Martin	452
Pitt	1,709

### BUSINESSES SERVED

394

## COURSERA DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline to enroll in Coursera has been extended to October 31, 2020 at no cost to the individual. This service is provided through a partnership between the Rivers East WDB and the Coursera for Workforce Recovery Program. Participants must complete all courses by December 31, 2020 to take advantage of the no cost offer.

New to Coursera? Coursera is an online education provider that offers online courses, specializations and degrees taught by top universities like Yale, Stanford, Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill and leading companies like Google and IBM. Individuals seeking to build skill sets or employers seeking a potential employee professional development platform are encouraged to sign up at [tinyurl.com/EnrollmentRE](https://tinyurl.com/EnrollmentRE).





## CAREER & COMMUNITY RESOURCES FAIR

Rivers East Virtual Career & Community Resources Fair was held September 1-2. The exhibitors represented 12 community resource agencies, the region's 4 community colleges, and 10 employers offering 138 job opportunities collectively. The participant numbers were 98 registered with 64 logging into the platform during the live fair for a total of 22,739 mouse clicks throughout the various virtual booths, job postings, videos, weblinks and related features. Virtual events are proving to be an excellent outreach tool for reaching new populations, individuals with transportation challenges and employees who are unable to participate in conventional events during work hours. It was revealed through the registration questions that 42% of the participants answered as not registered in NCWorks; the highest education level was tied between high school diplomas and Bachelor degrees at 32% each; and 31% requested a virtual appointment with an advisor at one of the Rivers East Career Centers for assistance with resume writing, learning more about interviewing and/or job searching techniques. Funding for the virtual career fair is made possible through a WIOA Center Enhancement Grant. The next event is tentatively scheduled for December with more information to come!

## NEWEST TOOL IN THE VIRTUAL TOOL BOX **eSkill**

eSkill is the region's newest online assessment tool. It is heralded as the market leader in pre-employment testing and offers both standard and customized skills and behavioral testing content with over 800 standard job-based and subject-based assessments. eSkill assessments also help to identify skills needs of job seekers and staff allowing for more targeted training.

To see a list of content offered through eSkill, please visit <https://es.eskill.com/es/Subjects.do>. Interested in eSkill? Contact your local career center, Business Services Representative, or Pat Harris at [pharris@mideastcom.org](mailto:pharris@mideastcom.org). Funding for this business service is made possible through a WIOA Center Enhancement Grant.

## OUR CENTERS

**Beaufort County**  
1502 N Market Street  
Washington, NC 27889  
252.940.0900

**Hertford County**  
109 Community College Road  
Jernigan Building B, Room 135  
Ahoskie, NC 27910  
252.862.1257

**Martin County**  
407 E Boulevard  
Williamston, NC 27892  
252.792.7816

**Pitt County**  
3101 Bismarck Street  
Greenville, NC 27834  
252.355.9067

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*Ability is what  
you're capable of  
doing. Motivation  
determines what you  
do. Attitude  
determines how well  
you do it.*

*-Lou Holtz*



**Rivers East**  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

[riverseastwdb.org](http://riverseastwdb.org)



# NETWORKING REDESIGNED

Members of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Partners group, led by the Pitt Community College Transitional Studies Department, held their second annual Networking Redesigned event virtually on July 16, 2020. Utilizing the Virtual Career Fair platform with assistance from Rivers East Workforce Development Board, 26 representatives from 12 agencies across the five county region (Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin and Pitt) connected through networking activities. These agencies provide housing, education, transportation, employment, financial and other types of assistance for community members.

“Networking Redesigned” was developed to encourage collaboration and resource sharing within the local community. In August 2019, more than 60 representatives from 23 agencies met for the inaugural event which provided opportunities for developing and building interagency and interpersonal relationships. The event was successful, encouraging an annual event. The purpose of this event was to promote interaction and partnerships within the Rivers East Workforce Board area, to help reduce duplicated efforts among our partners, to increase awareness of available resources and services for our clientele, and finally, develop a model that other regions and communities can use to promote these same goals.

One attendee noted in their evaluation “Great Event! Such an effective means of communication and great approach to networking.” Agencies with representatives attending the event were allowed the opportunity to create a booth on the Virtual Career Fair platform. These booths will be available for them during future career and community resource fairs through Rivers East WDB, where they can be used to connect with the public. For this event, participants were able to learn more about organizations through the virtual booths and were also able to utilize the “live chat” feature for networking.



## BOARD STAFFING CHANGES

Two new staffing changes have been made to the board staff. The first being Lou Stout, former Business Engagement Coordinator, transitioning to her new role as the Board's Compliance Manager. Lou now handles contracts, budgets, invoices, and much more!

Secondly, Ashlan Sawyer who formerly served as an intern to the board, has joined the team as the full-time Strategic Initiatives Coordinator. Ashlan now handles all social media, outreach materials, and the coordination for special projects/initiatives.

## OUTREACH EVENTS

On Tuesday, September 22, the Martin County NCWorks Career Center partnered with Mega Force Staffing in Washington to hold a Drive-in Job Fair. The event was held from 9am-12 Noon. Due to construction in the Career Center's parking lot, the event was held on the campus of Martin Community College in Williamston. About 10 applicants “drove in” and completed applications for work at Flagstone Foods in Robersonville. Attending from Mega Force were Micki Taylor, Regional Manager and her associate, Chris. Attending also were, Michelle Marston and Asia Butler, Business Services Staff from Rivers East and Roy Moore from CADA. Flagstone is still in need of about 50 workers, so discussion is planned to hold another event.

On Saturday, September 26 Janice Mullins, Beaufort County Adult/Dislocated Worker Career Advisor; Tom Leigh, Beaufort County NEXTGEN Youth Career Advisor; and Asia Butler, Rivers East Business Services Representative represented NCWorks at the Community Outreach event in Aurora. This event was hosted by the Greater Aurora Church community. Walgreens was onsite giving free flu shots, food was being given away, and there was also a school supply drive. This was a great opportunity for the staff to get involved with the community and bring awareness to the services we offer.

